

Changing default color scheme

To modify the default color scheme for data series, go to **Tools > Options > Charts > Default Colors** to specify colors for each data series. Changes made here affect the default colors for any future chart.

Using Data Series dialog

As discussed in the previous section, the Data Series dialog has options for assigning colors for lines, areas, and borders. Available options depend on the type of chart.

Using data ranges to assign colors

Use the COLOR function in the Function Wizard (described in Chapter 7, Using Formulas and Functions) to specify colors with numbers based on combined RGB values. Then assign the numbers to data ranges for border and fill colors in the *Data Series* page of the Chart Wizard (see “Selecting data series” on page 103) or in the *Data Series* tab of the Data Ranges dialog (see “Changing data ranges” on page 119).

For example, using the COLOR function in the Function Wizard, enter 255 for R (red), 0 for G (green), and 255 for B (blue). The COLOR function calculates a combined RGB value of 16711935. Then, when defining data ranges, enter the RGB value(s) in the cell range for border or fill color. Optionally, include a value for the alpha channel (A) in the COLOR function. The value of A can range from 0 (fully transparent) to 255 (fully opaque).

✓ Note

Data ranges for border color and fill can only be specified for column, bar, pie, bubble, and column and line charts.

In addition to directly assigning colors, use conditional formatting to define criteria for when specific colors will be used. (Conditional formatting is described in Chapter 2, Entering, Editing, and Formatting Data.)

Figure 94 shows an example of using conditional formatting to specify colors. The COLOR function in the Formula Wizard was used to create the conditional formula `=IF(B2>100,COLOR(240,240,0,20),COLOR(150,0,150,20))`

This formula says that when the value in column B is over 100, the first RGB setting is used to color that data point in the chart. When the value in column B is 100 or less, the default color (150, 0, 150) is used. This formula is in all cells of column C. The numbers appearing in column C are the RGB values calculated using the conditional formula (with cell references changed accordingly).

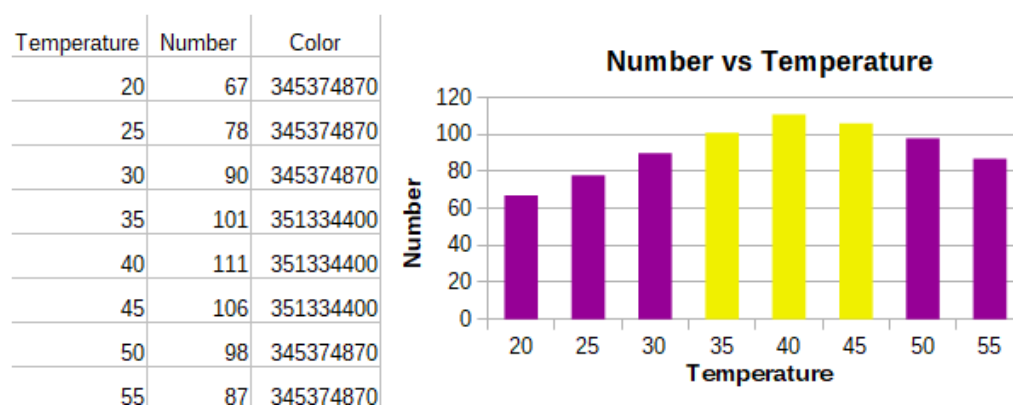


Figure 94: Using the COLOR function and a conditional formula to specify colors

The chart on the right in Figure 94 shows how the colors change to reflect the conditional formatting.